

THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, the Fine Arts, Music and the Drama.

No. 2405.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1873.

PRICE
THREEPENCE
REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER

ROYAL HIBERNIAN ACADEMY OF ARTS.
The ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL HIBERNIAN ACADEMY will OPEN on MONDAY, the 9th February, 1874. PICTURES will be RECEIVED by Messrs. GREEN & CO., 14, Charles-street, Middlesex Hospital, London; Messrs. Dolis, McKelvie & Davis, 89, George-street, Edinburgh; and Mr. J. Fisher, 5, West Nile-street, Glasgow, if delivered to them on or before the 6th of January next.
By order,
B. COLLES WATKINS, R.E.A., Secretary.
Lower Abbey-street, Dublin.

WILL CLOSE THIS DAY.—NINTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS, BY BRITISH AND FOREIGN ARTISTS, IS NOW OPEN, at T. McLEAN'S New Gallery, 7, Haymarket.

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ART, KEIGHLEY.
WANTED, an ART-MASTER, to commence, if possible, after the Christmas Vacation. To an energetic Man, the appointment is worth about 250*l.* per annum.—Applications, with testimonials, to be sent to the SECRETARY, not later than Saturday, the 6th of December, 1873.
THOMAS CARRODS, Secretary.

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THE LONDON ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY meets at 37, ARUNDEL STREET, Strand, on the First and Third TUESDAYS of each Month, at 8 P.M.
Papers for 2nd December:—
1. The Causes which determine the Rise and Fall of Nations, by T. INMAN, M.D.—2. Western Anthropologists and Extra-Western Communities, by J. KAINES, Doct. Sci.—3. A True Cerebral Theory necessary to Anthropology, by J. KAINES, Doct. Sci.

VICTORIA (PHILOSOPHICAL) INSTITUTE.
The First Meeting of the Ninth Session will be held, at 8 o'clock, on MONDAY, December 1st, when a Paper on "The Identity of Reason in Science and Religion," will be read by the Rev. R. Mitchell.
8, Adelphi-terrace, Charing Cross. F. PETRIE, Hon. Sec.

*•• The Work on the GEOMETRICAL ISOMORPHISM OF CRYSTALS, and the Derivatives of all other Forms from those of the Cubical System, by Rev. W. MITCHELL (6 large Plates), will be published next week; as also the Rev. Dr. W. J. IRONS'S REPLY to Professor TYNDALL.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—PARTICULAR ATTRACTIONS THIS DAY AND NEXT WEEK.

SATURDAY (November 29).—Ninth Saturday Concert. Distribution of Prizes to the London Rifle Brigade.

MONDAY.—Chrysanthemum Exhibition, &c.

TUESDAY to FRIDAY.—Operetta and Farce by the Gaiety Company daily.

THURSDAY.—Pauze's Lecture on Beethoven and Weber, at 8 p.m.

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By order of the Committee,
F. K. J. SHENTON, Supt. Lit. Dept.

JUNIOR ATHENÆUM CLUB.—The Committee desire to receive, not later than 8th December next, APPLICATIONS, in writing, from Gentlemen willing to undertake the OFFICE of SECRETARY to the Club, at a Salary of 300*l.* per annum. Printed particulars of the duties may be obtained at the Club-House, 116, Piccadilly. Only copies of Testimonials to be sent.

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Pending this publication, which it is expected will take place early in the Spring, the Public are requested to abstain from noticing the Memoirs published by Mr. H. G. Hewlett, which are most incomplete and unreliable.
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What the object of the advertiser now alluded to may be, is not so readily to be discovered; but it is somewhat singular that early in the present year an advertisement emanated from the same address, but under a different name, to which I also replied, enclosing samples, &c., &c., none of which I could get back again, though I made every effort to do so. The public will draw their own conclusions. Only those who support themselves by their pens can tell the hardship and injustice of the case. I trust that, in the interests of a large class of gentlemen who, like myself, live by literature, you will publish this letter, and allow other sufferers to suggest a means whereby we all can protect ourselves from these literary sharks. If I thought there would be any use taking legal proceedings, I would adopt that course. Can you, or any of your correspondents, advise me on the point?

AUTHOR.

THE KIEF SECTION OF THE RUSSIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY AND THE LAST MINSTREL OF THE UKRAINE.

THE English public is already acquainted with, and interested in, Russian popular traditions and poetry through the works of Mr. Ralston. The sole defect of his books on the 'Songs of the Russian People' and 'Russian Folk-tales' is that they treat, almost exclusively, of the products of only one part of Russia,—the Great-Russian popular poetry and traditions, saying little of the not less important poetical productions of Little-Russia (South-Russia, or the Ukraine), the inhabitants of which amount to twelve or thirteen millions in the south-west corner of European Russia, and to three millions in East Galicia (Red-Russia), and the parts bordering on Hungary. The want of fullness in Mr. Ralston's works can scarcely be considered his fault; it must be mainly attributed to the fact that the publication of South-Russian popular poetry took place long ago, and although at that time a great number of specimens were printed, yet the collection of Tzertelef in 1819, three books of Prof. Maximovitch's in 1827, 1837 and 1849, Prof. Sreznefski's in 1833, 1838, Prof. Metlinski's in 1857, Prof. Kostomarov's in 1859, and Zakref-

ski's in 1860, have become bibliographical rarities. The only important exceptions are an edition of 'Memorials of South-Russia,' by Koulisch (1855-56, 2 vols.), and 'South-Russian Popular Tales,' by Rudchenko (2 vols., 1869, 1870). It is indispensable to add, that another great obstacle to the study, by a foreigner, of South-Russian poetry, is the absence of a complete vocabulary; for the vocabulary annexed to Zakrefski's edition of the 'Old Bandourist,' Moscow, 1860, and the small Little-Russian vocabulary, lately printed by Fortunat Piskounoff, are very inadequate.

One of these obstacles is now being removed. This year the Russian Imperial Geographical Society has begun to print a vast collection of ethnological papers on Little-Russia, namely, "The results attained by the Ethnological Statistical Expedition into Occidental Russia, South-Occidental section. The researches made and materials collected, by P. P. Tchubinski." This work will contain, when completed, seven large volumes. Vol. I. (in two numbers). Preface, Legends (religious remains of Paganism and Christianity), enigmas, proverbs, spells, &c. Vol. II. Mythical tales and fables. Vol. III. The Popular Kalendar, or the ideas, superstitions, traditions, songs, &c., affixed to certain days and holidays in the year. Vol. IV. Ceremonial songs (sung during weddings, &c.). Vol. V. Songs of domestic and social life. Vol. VI. Documents of popular jurisprudence. Vol. VII. Life of the Little-Russian and foreign populations in South-Occidental Russia (in two numbers).

The first number of vol. i. (xxx., 224), vol. iii. (viii., 486), vol. vi. (vi., 406), and the first number of vol. vii. (vi., 337), have already come out. Vols. i. and iii. are of the most general interest, and contain an enormous amount of material for the history of popular culture in Russia.

The Russian Geographical Society, however, not satisfied with this vast edition, urged on by the desire of certain local scholars, and encouraged by the Governor-General of the country, Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff, instituted in February, 1873, the *South-west Section in Kief*, for the special study of the Governments of Kief, Podolia, Volhynia, Tchernigof and Poltava. The Kief district of popular instruction comprises the above-mentioned governments; and forms the centre of the Little-Russian or Ukraine ethnological area. The Kief section commenced its labours in February. Mr. Halaban, a local proprietor, was elected as president. Some years ago he edited a musical collection of Little-Russian popular songs. Mr. Borisof, State Controller in Kief, was chosen as his assistant, Mr. Tchubinski as secretary, and Mr. Russoff, Professor in the college, as his assistant.

Up to this time, at the meetings of the above-mentioned Society, there have been read some interesting reports on the industry and commerce of South-Russia; and a programme of the ethnological statistical description of the country has also been read and approved of. At present the Society is preparing a plan for making a census of the city of Kief; it has also undertaken to found an ethnological museum, for which a considerable number of objects have been collected; but, unfortunately, the Society has as yet no permanent lodging for this collection. The most interesting meeting of the Society was the last, when its members and the public of Kief had the occasion of seeing, what is now a great rarity, namely, a *bandurist*, or singer of popular historical songs. It is known that the Ukraine people have a great number of their own peculiar songs, which are called *doumy* (songs; *Douma* = thought, *epos*). These *doumy* are analogous to the Serbian songs, Spanish romances, and Scotch ballads, differing from the Great-Russian *buliny* in their historical matter, for they speak principally of the wars of the Ukraine people against the Tartars, Turks, and Poles in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Some *doumy* have a peculiar moral character. The recitation of the *doumy* is accompanied by the music of an instrument, somewhat like a guitar, called a *bandura*, with from twelve to twenty-four strings. In the course of time most of the *doumy* were forgotten by the

people, and the *bandurists*, persecuted and driven away by the Polish aristocracy from the right bank of the Dnieper, have become a rarity on the left as well. Between fifteen and twenty years ago, notwithstanding the indefatigable explorations of Mr. Kulitch in Little-Russia, he only met with two *bandurists*. One of these *bandurists* was invited by the President of the Kief section to come to Kief. We may justly call him the last Minstrel of the Ukraine. He is a blind old man, between sixty and sixty-five years old. His name is *Ostap* (Eustace) *Veressay*. He recited some characteristic *doumy* and songs out of his repertory, and played some pieces of dance music. The *bandurist*, before playing in public, was frequently heard by amateurs and investigators of popular poetry. One of these, the above-mentioned Mr. Russof, was charged by the Society to write the biography of the singer, and describe the character of his songs; another, Mr. Lyssenko, the editor of a musical collection of Ukraine Popular Songs (Leipzig, 1872, 1873), undertook to prepare a report on the music of Veressay in particular, and on Little-Russian popular melodies and music in general.

This study of popular music is most important. The report of Mr. Lyssenko has shown us that the South-Russian popular music, corresponding to the history of its people and their various relations to neighbouring nations, has less archaic diatonism than the music of Great-Russia, or than mediæval music in general. It is more like the music of the Serbians and, to a certain extent, of the Hungarians.

Both these interesting Reports were read at the meeting. They will be printed in the *Memoirs* of the Society, with a complete repertory of the songs of Veressay, of which he recited the following *doumy* and songs: a sorrowful *douma* on "the flight of three brothers from Turkish captivity in Azof"; another *douma* on "the death of Theodor Bezrodny," a chief of the Kosaks in the sixteenth century. These are specimens of the chivalrous customs current among the Zaporogian Kosaks, the affection of the old Kosak for his young page (*djoura*), and the veneration felt for a deceased hero by his comrades. A different reading of each of these *doumy* has been translated by Bodenstedt, in his book 'Die Poetische Ukraine' (Stuttgart, Cotta, 1845). In exact opposition to these pathetic *doumy*, the minstrel sang a humorous song on "the Marriage of the Goldfinch," a satire on pretentious alliances with aristocratic families. Also a song on "the lady wife of a peasant." He finished with the recitation of a *douma* "On Right and Wrong," which is penetrated by a strong democratic spirit. We need scarcely add how welcome to all scholars and amateurs will be the complete edition of the songs known by Ostap Veressay, and the Reports of Mr. Russof and Lyssenko, especially at a time when so interesting a specimen of spontaneous popular poetry and art is becoming extinct. The *bandurists* may all die, but let us say, in the terms of a *douma*, that "their glory will not die."

M. DRAGOMANOF,
(Professor of History in the University of Kief).

GOOD WORDS AND GOOD THINGS.

12, Paternoster Row, Nov. 25, 1873.

THE Editor of *Good Things* presents his compliments to the Editor of the *Athenæum*, and begs to say, in reply to the letter in his last number, that the paper 'Uncle Ben' is the first of a series which is to appear in *Good Things*. The writer is Mr. George Cupples, author of 'The Green Hand.' The series was originally intended for *Good Words*, but only the first article was published there. It would not have appeared in *Good Things* but for its connexion with those which are to follow.

. Would it not have been better if this explanation had been given in the number in which the article appeared, and not kept back till the identity of 'Uncle Ben' and 'What sent me to Sea' had been detected?

MR. JOHN YONGE AKERMAN, F.S.A.

On Tuesday, Nov. 18, died John Yonge Akerman, F.S.A., and many years Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries. Mr. Akerman was born in 1806, and, from his early youth, began to pay much attention to numismatics, for the knowledge of the Anglo-Saxon and English branch of which he acquired a just reputation. In 1836 he started, mainly at his own cost, the first *Numismatic Journal*, and, on the institution of the Numismatic Society in the following year, became its Secretary, and, till 1860, the editor of the *Journal* of the Society. In 1848, Mr. Akerman was appointed Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries, an office he held till the failure of his health compelled him to resign it in 1860.

Mr. Akerman was the author of many valuable works and papers relating to numismatics or archaeology, among which may be noticed, 'A Numismatic Manual,' 'Ancient Coins of Cities and Princes, comprising those of Spain, France, and Britain,' 'Coins of the Romans relating to Britain,' 'Numismatic Illustrations of the New Testament,' &c. For his 'Coins of the Romans relating to Britain' Mr. Akerman received the medal of the French Institute, and his services, generally, to different branches of Archaeology were acknowledged by his election as an honorary member into many foreign societies. Mr. Akerman published, also, a valuable illustrated work, entitled 'Anglo-Saxon Pagandom,' and several able papers in the *Archæologia*.

NOTES FROM THE UNITED STATES.

Boston, November, 1873.

LITERATURE is one of those luxuries which suffer most in a period of financial depression. It can flourish only when the purchasers of books feel that they are able to spare something after the daily wants and comforts, and the exigencies of business operations, are supplied. Although we are now in the midst of a prolonged monetary crisis, it is a fact that there has rarely been a time within the past two or three years when the money market, and hence commercial affairs, have not been in a more or less strained condition; and it has followed that our literature has been far less productive during this period even than during the war. Publishers hesitate to make ventures, and authors are thus discouraged from putting forth their best efforts. Little that is remarkable has, therefore, been produced during the trimester just passed, although I have to note some pleasant additions to our stock of reading in works of less than the highest rank. Messrs. Osgood have given, in the 'Fair God,' an American novel, which has, at least, created much discussion and criticism on its merits, a thing that can be said of very few indeed of native works of fiction. They have issued new editions of Messrs. Longfellow and Saxe, Miss Adelaide Procter (who is very popular in America), Mr. Bryant's Homer, and Mr. Whittier. We have from their press a first issue of our younger poets, Howells and E. C. Stedman; Mr. Lewes's condensed memoir of Goethe; a collection of Mr. Aldrich's stories; a convenient and tasteful small illustrated edition of Mr. Blackburn's 'Normandy Picturesque,' and, uniform with it, Mr. C. Warren Stoddard's charmingly descriptive and poetic 'South Sea Idylls'; a work which has attracted considerable attention, and the first edition of which is already exhausted, on 'Sex and Education,' by Dr. Edward Clarke, a leading and highly respected Boston physician; Freeman Clarke's 'Common Sense in Religion'; Col. Higginson's 'Old Port Days,' familiar already to the readers of the *Atlantic*; and Dr. Hamlin's essay on 'The Tourmaline.' During the present month Osgoods promise 'The Courtier,' by James Russell Lowell; Mr. Blackburn's 'Artists and Arabs'; 'Frithiof's Saga'; Mr. Lewes's 'Problems'; 'Cameos' from Landor; and several volumes of poems which promise to be of interest. Hurd & Houghton are publishing some of the more notable works of Mr. C. G. Leland, known best in England, perhaps, as "Hans Breitmann." Mr. Leland wrote much

and well before he produced his humorous German ballads. Mr. Arthur Gilman has prepared the seventh edition of his little work on 'First Steps in English Literature,' which is found to be an excellent text-book, and is generally commended for its style and exactness of data. He is about to publish, by Hurd & Houghton, a companion volume, illustrated, on 'Seven Historic Ages: Talks about Kings, Queens, and Barbarians.' Hurd & Houghton propose to issue soon 'Bianco Capello,' a tragedy in five acts, by Elizabeth Kinney, and a translation of 'The Grammar of Painting and Engraving,' by Charles Blanc. It will, I believe, be a companion book to Mrs. Clements's books on Art. Among the recent publications of Lee & Shepard are a small work by Mrs. Isabella Hooker, a sister of Mr. Beecher and Mrs. Stowe, on 'Womanhood,' dealing with questions similar to those discussed by Mr. Mill, and those agitated in Parliament in relation to the Contagious Diseases Act; and a tale, with a novel theory of affections between the sexes, by Mrs. Corbin, entitled 'His Marriage Vow.' Lee & Shepard will issue 'The Ancient City: a Study of the Religion, Land, and Institutions of Greece and Rome,' by F. de Coulanges. 'Brave Hearts' is a novel of some merit, with a claim to being purely American, published by J. B. Ford & Co. This house is industrious in issuing the works of the Beechers, the latest from their press being the second series of Henry Ward Beecher's interesting 'Yale Lectures on Preaching.' They issue a neat pamphlet each week, containing the sermon preached by Mr. Beecher at the Plymouth Church, on the previous Sunday; and as Mr. Beecher maintains steadily his popularity, the circulation of these, in a cheap and convenient form, is immense. Ford & Co. have also recently issued 'A Good Match,' by Amelia Perrier; 'Winning Souls,' by Rev. S. B. Halliday; and a useful account of the mining and metallurgical industry of this country, with special reference to the precious metals, called 'Silver and Gold.' Its author is Dr. R. W. Raymond.

The occasion of Mr. Wilkie Collins's visit to the United States, and his lecturing tour here, is seized by his publishers, the Harpers, as an opportunity for issuing a neat and complete edition of his works, illustrated, 'The Woman in White' having already appeared. The same house reprints Mr. Tyerman's 'Oxford Methodists,' and Canon Tristram's 'Land of Moab.' The Harpers are particularly enterprising in the production of illustrated books of travel, and among their recent issues is an elaborate account of that interesting island, the Mauritius. This is called 'Subtropical Rambles,' and is from the pen of Nicolas Pike, the American Consul at the Mauritius. The Autobiography of Mr. Mill, which is certain to be extensively read here, judging from the wide sales of his works, will be republished by Henry Holt & Co. The absurd book, entitled 'Edwin Drood,' completed, 'professedly the work of a Vermont medium, to whom the spirit of Dickens has confided the remainder of his last story, is having a somewhat large sale, the credulity and curiosity of people inducing them to purchase it. Among recent novels published by G. W. Carleton are 'Jessamine,' by Marion Harland; 'A Remarkable Woman,' by Mrs. Fleming; Edgar Fawcett's 'Purple and Fine Linen,' 'Dawn,' and 'Loyal to Death.' The same house issues an entertaining history of Plymouth Church, presided over by Mr. Beecher, and a curious little work on 'Epitaphs.' The popularity of the translations of Jules Verne's 'Twenty Thousand Leagues' and 'Tour of the World in Eighty Days,' has resulted in the rapid production of his less-known works. Scribners issue his 'Journey to the Center of the Earth,' Lippincott's his 'Castaways,' and Osgoods will soon publish his 'Five Weeks in a Balloon,' and 'From the Earth to the Moon.' Few books have more successfully hit the popular taste than Verne's delightful, absurd, and fanciful creations.

G. M. T.